

Healthy Yards, Healthy Streams

Simple Yard Care Practices That Protect Local Water Quality

Protecting Tinker's Creek &
Brandywine Creek Watersheds



Rain that falls on our lawns, rooftops, and driveways flows into storm drains and directly into local waterways, often without treatment. Along the way, stormwater can carry fertilizer, grass clippings, leaves, and other pollutants into neighborhood streams.

Small yard care choices can collectively impact water quality, aquatic habitat, and downstream communities connected to the Cuyahoga River and Lake Erie,



DID YOU KNOW?

Most neighborhood storm drains flow directly into local streams without treatment.

SIMPLE ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

1



USE LESS FERTILIZER

Excess nutrients, especially phosphorus and nitrogen, can wash into streams and fuel harmful algal blooms.

Choose phosphorus-free or slow-release products or organic fertilizers and apply only as directed.

2



LEAVE GRASS CLIPPINGS ON THE LAWN

Grass clippings break down quickly and return valuable nutrients to the soil.

"Mow and go" to naturally feed your lawn and reduce the need for fertilizer.

3



KEEP YARD WASTE OUT OF STORM DRAINS

Leaves, clippings, and soil washed into storm drains carry nutrients directly into our waterways.

Sweep or rake debris back onto your lawn or compost it. Don't blow it into streets or drains!

THE PATH OF RUNOFF

What happens on your property doesn't stay on your property.

